

25 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 25 November Meeting of the "Indochina Steering Group"

25X1A

25X1A

1. [redacted] reported that the raid in force against Ban Ban is set to begin late today. He also reported on the operations plan for an early date in southern Laos. Included in these are a return to [redacted] and an effort to remain in [redacted]. Some six battalions (three [redacted] two Royal Laotian, and one neutralist) are to begin a push at the northern edge of the Bolovens Plateau as a means of drawing off Communist forces from the south and reducing the threat to Pak Sane. This latter operation is to begin today. [redacted] also noted that there continues to be no degradation of our intelligence relating to [redacted]. The reason for this is that the Son Tay raid and the bombing operations required continuous carrier operations off the Vietnam coast.

25X1A

25X6□

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2. [redacted] asked why we had not yet received any results of the air strikes made against NVN. He said it was not even clear what the targets had been. [redacted] said that DOD has promised the information but it has not yet been received. [redacted] said the targets were SAM sites, AAA sites, and stockpile facilities from border north to the 19th parallel.

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3. There was a brief and inconclusive discussion of [redacted], a new sensor in use in Laos (two in the northwest and two on Route 914) to keep abreast of vehicle traffic. These sensors were said to be working "fairly well."

25X1A

4. [redacted] of SAVA reported on the status of the training of [redacted] in southern Laos. [redacted] is sending three more battalions in to begin such training soon.

25X6□

25X6□

SENSITIVE

25X1A 5. [REDACTED] reported on the status of work in connection with NSSM 99. Brief summaries for each paper are being done as a service for the principals. The papers are expected in shortly along with the summaries. Dissemination to the principals is planned for 30 November.

25X1A

6. I reported that [REDACTED] and company will proceed to develop a memo on the situation in North Vietnam since Ho's death. We plan to issue the memo before the end of the year. It will need inputs from OER and others. I also reported that the memo planned for next week on the dangers ahead in Cambodia will require a statement from OER concerning the enemy supply situation and needs. I pointed out that we are finding recent [REDACTED] reports concerning SVN (particularly Ky)-NVN contacts to be of great interest. We are assessing them particularly from the standpoint of how the Communists would be apt to react. [REDACTED] observed that another very important aspect is to try to assess Ky's motivations. I asked if this information was being handled as quickly as possible since some of it appears to be a bit dated. 25X1C

25X1A

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[REDACTED] said in effect that this information moves about as fast as possible.

[REDACTED] 25X1A

Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

Distribution:

Orig - File

1 - CD/FE

SENSITIVE

25 November 1970

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NOTE FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Memorandum on North Vietnam

①

I plan to get a memo out by the end of the year on North Vietnam covering at least the following ground:

- a. The leadership
- b. Morale & Popular Attitudes
- c. Law & Order
- d. The Economy — *will want some more help - OER*
- e. The War & the Matter of Priorities ^{a bone of contention} (Building Socialism)

I would plan to include commentary on the manpower question, Hanoi's will to persist, the old cliché that the Vietnamese Communists are convinced they can outlast us, and the prospect for negotiation. The general theme would be the old one of "The Hood in Hanoi," which in my view is fairly grim.

I intend to do the bulk of the drafting myself and will get started as soon as I can.

25X1A

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- ② Ask [REDACTED] need a statement or input on stockpile situation

- ③ NSSM #99 [REDACTED] re-doing — Intel panel Summary

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- ④ Ban Ban — 15km safety zone

⑤ Pak Beng?

⑥ Chinese OB in Laos

⑦ Sp. on handling of SVN-NVN contacts.

Communist reaction?
[handling quickly]

25X1A

- ① Ban Ban set for late this aft. our time.
- ② Zops going in So. Laos - return to 26 stay in 27 & 38
Push to northern edge of Bolovens
to draw off Commie forces
from Pak Sane among
others. Kick off on 25th.

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③ Son Tay background

Still no degradation
re [redacted] Son Tay, etc.
have had [redacted] flying in future alt collection

25X1A

No ops results of air strikes. DOD has promised it;
not yet received in SAVA.

JAM'S
AAA
major
stockpiles } up to
the
19th.

25X1A

25X1A [redacted] No word yet. Those who have requirements

Status of

25X1A [redacted] - new sensor -

2 NW Laos
2 on [redacted]

} Correlating
pretty well

25X1A

25X6

25X1A

[redacted] in training in So Laos.
3 more bns to begin training.

25X1A

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NSA #99

Summaries for each paper - for principals Monday
papers in pretty good shape - reon remanded